

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 EB-08 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04  
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 OES-06 DLOS-06 INT-05  
SAL-01 OIC-02 /083 W  
-----171933 080911 /44

R 171607Z FEB 77  
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3070  
INFO ALL EC CAPTIALS 3161  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 1567

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PLOS EEC EFIS CA  
SUBJECT: MEETING IN OTTAWA ON FUTURE OF ICNAF

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1277 (NOTAL)

1. A CANDADIAN MISSION OFFICER INFORMED THE MISSION THAT EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS HAD TAKEN THE CANDADIANS TO TASK WHEN THE CANDDIANS, INSTEAD OF "INVITING" THE EC MERELY "INFORMED" IT OF THE PROPOSED PREPARATORY MEETING IN OTTAWA MARCH 14-25 TO CONSIDER HOW THE FUNCTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES (ICNFAF) SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN THE FUTURE. TH EC ARGUED, AS REPORTED REFTEL, THAT THE EC HAD CLEARLY INDICATED AT THE DECEMBER ICNAF MEETING AT TENERIFE ITS INTEREST IN PARICIPATING IN ANY MEETING REGARDING THE FATE OF ICNAF OR THE CREATION OF A SUCCESSOR INTERNATIONAL BODY. WHEN THE CANADIANS STATED THAT ONLY ICNAF MEMBERS HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY INVITED, THE EC POINTED OUT THAT THE EC HAD AS MUCH RIGHT TO BE INVITED AS THE US WHICH HAD FORMALLY WITHDRAWN FROM ICNAF AS OF THE

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FIRST OF THE YEAR. THE CANDIANS REPLIED THAT WHILE THEY FELT THEY COULD NOT DEVIATE FROM THE INVITATION LIST, THEY WOULD BE PLEASED TO GO ALONG WITH WHATEVER THE PARTICIPANTS DECIDDE AT THE OTTAWA MEETING. THE CANADIAN OFFICER ADDED THAT, TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE (AND CONTRARY TO THE INDICATIONS IN REFTEL), EC MEMBER COUNTRIES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF ICNAF

(NOTABLY THE FRENCH) ARE PLANNING ON PARTICIPATING.

2. ACCORDING TO THE CANADIAN MISSION OFFICER, THE EC MEMBER STATES ATTENDING THE OTTAWA MEETING EARLY IN THE PROCEEDINGS (BUT POSSIBLY AFTER FORMALLY DISPOSING OF ICNAF AND WHEN TAKING UP A POSSIBLE FUTURE ORGANIZATION) WILL PROBABLY STATE THAT THEY ARE WITHDRAWING AND WILL HENCEFORTH BE FORMALLY REPRESENTED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WHICH IS COMPETENT FOR THE MEMBER STATES ON FISHERY MATTERS. HE THOUGHT, BUT WAS NOT CERTAIN, THAT THEY MIGHT CONTINUE TO ATTEND THE MEETING IN A "PARTICIPATING OBSERVER" CAPACITY OR POSSIBLY AS MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY DELEGATION. HE ALSO UNDERSTOOD THAT THE EC COMMISSION OR POSSIBLY THE MEMBER STATES WOULD LOBBY IN ADVANCE OF THE CONFERENCE WITH THE US AND OTHER FRIENDLY ICNAF MEMBERS FOR SUPPORT OF THIS POSITION IN THE FACE OF PROBABLE OPPOSITION BY THE ICNAF EASTERN EUROPEAN MEMBERS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION REQUESTS INFORMATION AS TO THE US POSITION TOWARD THE PROPOSED CANADIAN PREPARATORY MEETING. WILL THE US PARTICIPATE AND IN WHAT CAPACITY GIVEN ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM ICNAF? WHAT SHOULD BE OUR RESPONSE IN THE EVENT WE ARE ASKED TO SUPPORT THE SCENARIO DESCRIBED IN PARA 2 ABOVE? MORRIS

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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